

## Resource Numbers

### GENERAL INFORMATION FOR AVAILABLE RESOURCES AND REFERRALS TO SUPPORT LEARNING AND SCHOOL READINESS:

SMART START .....(210) 65-SMART  
Public Library .....(210) 207-2500  
United Way .....(210) 227-HELP

### INFORMATION ABOUT RESOURCES AVAILABLE THROUGH THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM:

Education Service Center-Region 20 ....(210) 370-5200  
Texas Education Agency  
Special Education Hotline .....(800) 252-9668

### ASSISTANCE FINDING CHILD CARE IN YOUR AREA:

City of San Antonio, Department of Community Initiatives  
Children's Resources Division (KidCare) (210) 246-5276  
Family Service Association .....(210) 225-0276

### ASSISTANCE WITH CHILD CARE FEES:

There are eligibility guidelines based on the family's income.  
Child Care Delivery Services (CCDS) ....(210) 246-5200  
Head Start Parent/Child, Inc. ....(210) 226-6232  
Early Head Start .....(210) 226-6232, ext. 5017  
Avance, San Antonio .....(210) 220-1788

### INFORMATION ABOUT RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR HEALTH ISSUES:

Texas Healthy Kids Corporation .....(800) 943-KIDS  
Metropolitan Health District .....(210) 207-8780

### ASSISTANCE WITH CONCERNS OR QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR YOUNG CHILD'S GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT:

Early Childhood Intervention .....(800) 250-2246  
Texas Dept. of Health, Family Health Services, information  
and referral line. ....(800) 422-2956



*This guide was created to help children and their families participate fully in quality early childhood education, family literacy, and school readiness. Funding provided by the City of San Antonio and Alamo Workforce Development, Inc.*

# A Better San Antonio Begins With Our KIDS.

## The ABC's of Early Childhood Education

Children begin to learn long before they start school. In fact, what and how much they

learn during these early years makes a big difference to their futures. Especially in how well they do in school—and how successful they are as adults.

Of course, this makes a big difference to our city of San Antonio. That's because the better educated our citizens are, the more skills they'll have, and the more they'll earn as a result. And all of this leads to a better economy and a better quality of life for all of us.

We know parents are very busy. This brochure has information parents need to find resources and help from the people and organizations who are experts in early childhood education.

Please keep this brochure where you can always find it and refer to it. It can make a big difference to you, your child, and to San Antonio. It's as simple as A-B-C.

**The 1-2-3's** The high value, worth, and importance of Early Childhood Education can be added up, measured, and multiplied. Here are the impressive numbers. In the first three years of life, babies' brain cells grow wildly, and what they learn and how they learn is critical in shaping their lives and futures. If babies are deprived of a stimulating learning environment, their brains suffer.

## Educational Achievement

- A 1999 study concluded that high quality child care continues to positively predict a child's performance well into elementary school.
- Children enrolled in preschool were 46% more likely to have completed high school.
- Reading achievement levels were higher for participants who received early childhood education.

## Workforce Development

- Researchers found that by age 27, younger adults who had participated in early childhood education programs earned 60% more than those who did not.
- Employment rates were 30% higher for adults who had received early childhood education.

## Return on Investment

- A recent return on investment analysis of child care in San Antonio concluded that for every \$1 invested in early education, there is \$4.47 in increased economic activity in the community.
- For every \$1 invested in early education, there is a \$7.26 saving in the cost of crime, special education, welfare, etc.

**Early ON**



**School Readiness Checklist**

## Parental Guide to Successful Children

Young children learn best through active play and everyday life experiences. They start to learn from the time they feel their toes and hear their mothers' voices. They need the love and support of the most important people in their lives—their parents and caregivers.

### How to Create Strong Communication Skills

- ☐ Talk and listen to your child.
- ☐ Sing songs together. (*The itsy bitsy spider went up...*)
- ☐ Recite nursery rhymes. (*Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall...*)
- ☐ Point out words, shapes, and colors.



- ☐ Encourage your child to use a pencil. (Scribbling is okay! Scribble "play" grocery lists or letters to grandma.)
- ☐ Look at family photos or magazine pictures and talk about what you see. *Then* make up stories about what you *don't* see!
- ☐ Read with your child. (Visit the neighborhood library. End each day with "reading time.")

### Ways to Help Your Child Develop Problem-Solving Skills

- ☐ Sort objects with your child. (canned goods, blocks, socks, even laundry)
- ☐ Count items together. (fruit and cans at the grocery store)
- ☐ Encourage play in creative ways. (Play dress-up, make mudpies or a sandcastle—*outside of course!*)
- ☐ Play with simple puzzles.
- ☐ Play "I Spy," looking for patterns such as polka-dots, stripes, or windowpanes.

### Build the Skills That Allow Your Child to Deal With Life

- ☐ Play games to practice taking turns and following simple rules. (CandyLand®, Hide-n-Seek, Old Maid, Jump Rope)
- ☐ Ask your child to help you plan a meal, a play date, or even a party.
- ☐ Invite friends over to share toys.
- ☐ Make simple rules for your child to follow and be **consistent!** (Ask before playing with someone else's toys or belongings. Pick up toys before bedtime *everyday*.)

**ABOVE ALL... ENJOY YOUR CHILDREN AS THEY GROW!**



# School Readiness Checklist

Kindergarten is an exciting new time for both parents and children. The checklist below is a guide for school readiness that provides an easy way for parents, grandparents, caregivers, early care, and education staff to identify some of the expectations for children entering kindergarten.

## Communications Skills

Check If Your Child:

- ☐ Recognizes print in his/her surroundings (stop sign, school-crossing sign, don't walk signal, etc.).
- ☐ Recognizes the letters in his/her name.
- ☐ Tries to write his/her name.
- ☐ Picks up books and pretends to read.
- ☐ Listens to and then retells stories.
- ☐ Arranges pictures to tell a story.
- ☐ Speaks in complete sentences.
- ☐ Sings songs and recites simple poems, nursery rhymes, and finger plays.
- ☐ Uses words and expressions to describe feelings, objects, and events.
- ☐ Produces writing-like scribbles or letter-like forms.
- ☐ Identifies and names basic shapes (square, circle, triangle, etc.).

*The School Readiness Checklist (also called "Kindergarten Readiness Guidelines") gives examples of skills that have been recognized as contributing to success in school. This list was developed by a joint committee of educators, parents, and early-childhood specialists; and is approved and supported by Bexar County schools.*

*School Readiness—Early ON—is a program of the City of San Antonio Department of Community Initiatives—an equal opportunity employer. Auxiliary aids or services are available upon request to persons with disabilities.*

## Problem Solving Skills

Check If Your Child:

- ☐ Sorts objects into groups of different color, size and shape.
- ☐ Recognizes and creates new patterns and designs such as: red, blue, red, blue; or 2-1-1-2-1-1-2-1-1; or ■■■▲, ■■■▲, ■■■▲.
- ☐ Works with blocks, sand, and art materials to create something new.
- ☐ Completes simple puzzles (4-6 pieces).

## Life Skills

Check If Your Child:

- ☐ Works cooperatively with adults and children.
- ☐ Shares and takes turns.
- ☐ Listens and follows short directions (2-3 steps).
- ☐ Follows simple rules.
- ☐ Respects others.
- ☐ Takes care of personal belongings and belongings of others, such as putting toys away and using materials with care.



# Early ON

## Resource Guide

### Interesting Books to Read with Your Child

- ☐ A-B-C books of all kinds
- ☐ *The Cat in the Hat and One Fish, Two Fish* by Dr. Seuss
- ☐ *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?* by Bill Martin, Jr.
- ☐ *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* by Laura Numeroff
- ☐ *I Know an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly* and *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle

### Parent Resources

*Internet sites that will help your child learn to read (activities from infancy to age 10):*

- ☐ [www.ed.gov/pubs/parents/reading](http://www.ed.gov/pubs/parents/reading)
- ☐ [www.connectforkids.org](http://www.connectforkids.org)

*Books:*

- ☐ *Building Your Baby's Brain: A Parent's Guide To The First Five Years* by D. Dodge and C. Heroman ([www.TeachingStrategies.com](http://www.TeachingStrategies.com))
- ☐ *Ready for Reading: A Handbook for Parents of Preschoolers* by Bishop, Yopp, and Yopp
- ☐ *Smart Start: Building Brain Power in the Early Years* by P. Schiller
- ☐ *Starting Out Right: A Guide to Promoting Children's Reading Success* ([www.nap.edu](http://www.nap.edu))

*Agencies/companies available to answer questions and help you find the right place to make our children successful:*

- ☐ United Way (210) 352-7000
- ☐ Children's Resources Division (210) 246-5276
- ☐ Your School District
- ☐ Your Church
- ☐ Your Public Library